

THE VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT MEDIA OUTLET OF
LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

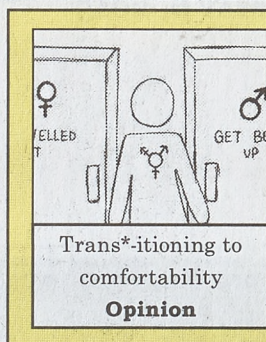
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WWW.THEVALLEYSTAR.COM



Cut from a different
kind of cloth
Valley Life



Trans*-itioning to
comfortability
Opinion



Centerfielder takes
center stage
Sports

VALLEY LIFELINE

The tutors' dynasty

■ Free tutoring services are available for Monarchs.

By AMANDA CAVARETTA
COPY EDITOR

With finals around the corner, prepping for tests and managing school work can be overwhelming. Los Angeles Valley College offers a free tutoring service to students in most subjects.

General tutoring is available in the Library Academic Resource Center, Room 213. To utilize this service, students can simply walk in and show their student ID.

"We offer a free tutoring service to students who need help in cinema, French, Spanish, art, economics, and more," said student helper Xiomara O'Brien. "If a student is looking for help in a specific subject they should call to find out when a tutor will be available."

"A student can stay in the center for as long as the tutor is here. We also have free workshops students can attend throughout the semester."

At the Math Lab, students can also drop in to meet with a tutor. The lab is also located in the Library Academic Resource Center, in Room 226.

"I've been to the Math Lab quite a few times in the past," said Sandra Rodriguez, a sociology major. "Going to the lab was really helpful with my math homework."

According to the New York Times, having an alternate study space and participating in study groups increases the likelihood of remembering what the student has learned.

Amparo Ochoa-Rivas, a child development transfer student from Valley found working with other classmates beneficial.

"I loved the Math Lab because it was a place I could get with a group of classmates or other people taking the same class at different times," said Ochoa-Rivas. "We would help each other."

General Tutoring Center

Hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday- 10am-6:30pm,
Tuesday- 10am-8pm, Friday and Saturday- 10am-2pm

Math Lab Hours:
Monday- 10am-6:30pm,
Tuesday and Wednesday- 10am-8:00pm, Thursday- 10am-6:30pm, Friday and Saturday- 10am-2pm

Upcoming Workshops:
"In-Class Essay Writing"-
Wednesday, May 6 from 1:00pm-2:30pm in LARC 212
"Setting Goals"-
Thursday, May 7 from 1:00pm-2:30pm in LARC 212
"Time Management"-
Tuesday, May 12 from 6:00pm-7:30pm in LARC 212
"Research Papers/Plagiarism"-
Wednesday, May 20 from 1:00pm-2:30pm in LARC 212
"Test Taking Strategies"-
Tuesday, May 26 from 6:00pm-7:30pm in LARC 212

For more workshops and information visit www.lavc.edu/tutor or call the Tutoring Center at (818) 947-2744

For additional content
please visit:
www.thevalleystar.com



VALLEY BOXING EVENT IS A K.O.



KNOCKOUT - Emilio Rodriquez completes a first-round TKO vs. Mcario Del Castillo in the main event of a 12-bout fight night hosted by Valley College in the South Gym on April 24. The event was Valley's first time hosting a boxing extravaganza, with another planned in June.

ALVIN CUADRA/VALLEY STAR

see **SPORTS** page 7 for story

ASU

ASU's new boss ready to reign

■ The president-elect lays out her agenda as the outgoing chief executive reviews his term.



DAVID DINWIDDIE/VALLEY STAR

READY TO WORK - Newly elected ASU President Hayarpi Orujyan prepares to serve the Monarch student body.

By SARA ALMALLA
STAFF WRITER

Hayarpi Orujyan, the upcoming Associated Student Union president, is a woman with a plan. The only woman with a plan, at least on the ASU.

As of right now, Orujyan is the only female on the ASU board, but she hopes that when applications for currently vacant posts become available, more female students will try for the positions.

"I noticed a lot of times, it's the men that run for president," said Orujyan, "and this past semester, I've been Commissioner of Evening Division and I really liked it and I thought I should take the next step up. I was just ready to

take on a bigger leadership role. I wanted to encourage other girls to take on leadership roles too because I don't want there to be a dominance of men."

Orujyan's agenda as president consists of three main tasks right now: extended library hours, workshops and campus safety.

She has already begun working on the campus safety issue, touring the school with Campus and Maintenance representatives in search of areas that require additional lighting and security cameras.

"Student safety is a big concern of mine," Orujyan explained. "Especially for

see **PRESIDENT** page 2

KEY EVENTS

■ ASU is hosting their third Club Day of the semester from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ A campus-cleanup is being organized by ASU in Monarch Square from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For additional content
please visit:

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VALLEY LIFE

Robbery prompts security changes

■ Valley College's sheriff providing services to to safeguard the campus in wake of February's robbery.

By KEVIN BUCKLES JR.
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Following February's strong-arm robbery on campus -- which still remains an open case despite no new leads --, Valley College's Sheriff Station has placed a premium on better ensuring the safety of all Monarchs.

The robbery itself occurred the night of February 12 around 9:25 p.m. when a male student was robbed by two unidentified assailants while walking towards Parking Lot A, past the Engineering Building.

The suspects pushed the student from behind and took a briefcase out of his hands containing a textbook and a Apple laptop.

"Yes, [campus security has been heightened since

"Yes, [campus security has been heightened since February's robbery]."

- Deputy Velasco

February's robbery," said Deputy Sheriff Frank Velasco. "I have personally met with Maintenance

and Operations to not only have our guys out there patrolling more during the hours of when the robbery occurred, but we're also trying to improve the lighting."

Keeping the campus bright at night is very important to the safety of students and faculty who are partaking in evening classes, according to Maintenance and Operations Director Tom Lopez. "For example, the pool by the South Gym was one of the darkest areas on the campus, but

see **SECURITY** page 2



GUILLERMO MARTINEZ/VALLEY STAR

GIVING DIRECTION - Campus Security Officer Acevedo converses with a student outside of the South Gym.

NEWS



DAVID DINWIDDIE/VALLEY STAR

BRAINSTORMING FOR THE FUTURE - The new ASU President-elect Hayarpi Orujyan is already planning to start improving the connection between the Associated Student Union and Valley students.

'President'

continued from page 1

evening students, I don't want them to be afraid of coming to campus."

She wants to create more opportunities for students to transfer, including improving access to existing workshops and utilities.

Orujyan also wants to improve communication between the students and the ASU: "I want more students to be aware of ASU and have a connection with us and not hesitate to drop by if they have any problems or concerns or ideas."

She plans on holding in-class presentations in order to introduce the ASU board to more students. She would also like to host more ASU-involved events at school, encouraging students to interact with each other - including the ASU board.

"I do like working with people and being involved. I don't think students should

just come to class and then leave," said Orujyan. "I think they should be involved and join clubs, and interact with other students, meet people that have the same major or different majors - just be more open-minded. That's

"I want more students to be aware of ASU and have a connection with us and not hesitate to drop by if they have any problems or concerns or ideas."

- Hayarpi Arujyan

how you become open-minded."

Outgoing president Sukhsimran Sandhu, however, said it was difficult to achieve goals from that office.

Sandhu's main aims as president were to create benefits for ASU members (that includes students who pay the ASU fee as well as ASU board members) and more classes for all students. He said he had been able to create perks for ASU members by creating the Community Discount Card that offers discounts for local stores. He was however, unable to create more class opportunities.

Sandhu went on to clarify that his position as ASU president does not have as much power as one would assume: "The only perk of being president at meetings is that you're the chair of the meetings and you decide how the meeting goes. In terms of making decisions, it's the whole board as one."

For additional content please visit:

www.thevalleystar.com

'Security'

continued from page 1

now that we have added Alumni Walk via construction, it is now one of the brightest areas on campus."

The Sheriff's Office is also actively attempting to add more surveillance cameras, blue phones (public phones that are placed campus-wide for emergency use only), and alarm systems. However, these pro-safety tactics all have to be approved under the school budget, according to Velasco, but there is currently no timetable. In the meantime, the sheriffs do have safety tips and services for students and faculty available on their website. Such tips include: when walking on campus at night, walk confidently and directly, avoid doorways, bushes, and alleys where attackers can hide, and have car keys in hand en route to the vehicle.

A "safety escort service"

is also available for Valley faculty, staff, students, and guests who may be walking alone on campus at night. By simply calling the Sheriff's Office and requesting a safety escort to authorities, an on-duty officer will accompany the person(s) to

"The important thing on campus is to walk directly to where you're going and pay attention."

- Deputy Velasco

their destination via their police vehicle.

Besides a safety escort, being aware of one's surroundings is the biggest key to remaining safe on campus, according to Velasco.

"Students and faculty

often always have their iPhones in their hands and their earphones on and aware of what's going on around them," said Velasco. "The important thing on campus is to walk directly to where you're going and pay attention."

As of now, Valley's burglaries and thefts have decreased by nearly 30 percent from last year -- with 14, and the sheriffs plan to keep it that way.

"Any time students are on campus, whether there are classes or no classes, there's always security here on campus that they can come to if they need help," said Velasco. "Our security here at the sheriff station is seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We are always open."

For more information on sheriff services and availability, please visit: <https://www.lavc.edu/sheriff/index.html> or call at (818) 947-2911.

NEWS BRIEFS

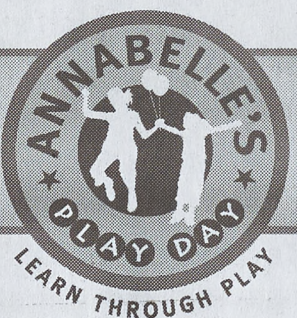
■ Maryland State Attorney Marilyn Mosby announced on national television that the six officers involved in the death of 25 year-old Freddie Gray will face plethora of charges.

■ Professional Boxer Manny Pacquiao is the subject of a lawsuit by the Nevada Athletic Commission (NAC) after being accused of lying about a shoulder injury that was sustained before his May 2 fight vs. Floyd Mayweather, according to BBC.

■ An earthquake between 7.8 and 8.1 magnitude rocks Nepal to its core, killing over 7,000 people in total on April 25 and injuring more than twice as many. It was the largest earthquake to hit Nepal since 1934.

■ 'Walking Dead' star Seth Gilliam was arrested Sunday and charged with DUI, drug possession and speeding. Gilliam was driving 107 mph in a 55-mph zone; marijuana and a cigarette was found in his car.

Please join us!



May 16th, 2015
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

19th Annabelle Godwin Play Day

FREE Family Event

This community event offers exciting activities including story time, hands-on science, art & learning activities, games, and so much more!

¡Este evento comunitario ofrece actividades excitantes que incluyen lectura de cuentos, actividades de ciencia, juegos, actividades de arte y aprendizaje y mucho más!

Each child will go home with a **FREE BOOK!** & families will receive a bag of fresh fruits and vegetables - while supplies last!

Made possible with funding from First 5 LA through the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Location:

Los Angeles Valley College

5800 Fulton Avenue • Valley Glen, CA 91401

818.717.1030 • www.ccrcca.org



Child Care Resource Center™
Quality • Support • Development • Education



Infant Play Area

Aztec Dancers

Free Books

Hair/Face Painting

Obstacle Course

Reptiles Exhibit

Raffle Prizes



OPINION

3

Trans*itioning acceptance

■ **What do you call the World's Greatest Athlete coming out as trans*? A good start.**

By **AGUSTIN ANGEL FLORES**
PHOTO EDITOR

After Bruce Jenner's interview with Diane Sawyer, which aired on April 24, he became the most famous trans* person in the country. Jenner, who won the gold medal in the decathlon at the 1976 Summer Olympics and is now a television personality, publicly announced on ABC's "20/20" that he identifies as a transgender woman.

The former "World's Greatest Athlete," 65, told Sawyer that "for all intents and purposes, I'm a woman," and spoke in detail about his lifelong struggle with gender identity and his decision to finally transition.

Preferred gender pronouns are just the frosting on the layer cake of ignorance and transphobia that trans* people have to deal with on a daily basis. Jenner's announcement came at an unprecedented time for trans* visibility and awareness; the two-hour special drew more than 17 million viewers.

While his experience should be acknowledged, this is not the only significant story about the struggles trans* individuals face.

Prominent gender-non-conforming advocate Kay Ulanday Barrett wrote on Fusion.net, "The current curiosity surrounding Jenner's interview in the non-trans community creates a magical fantasy based on a very wealthy, able-bodied, Amer-

ican, and white experience that isn't the case for many of us who struggle for survival and justice as transgender people of color."

What Barrett said gives an insight that doesn't occur to many cisgender people—people who, for the most part, identify as the gender they were assigned at birth—, that the struggle for survival is literal on a daily basis for every trans* person, specially trans people of color. Most trans* people don't have access to safe and affordable health services, transition related care, housing and a good paying job.

For many trans* women who do not have the money to pay the transition procedure (as much as \$70,000), they have to resort to alternative treatments, such as unlicensed silicone injections, to modify their bodies.

Many trans* people are discriminated against in employment and are not hired or are fired from jobs that provide health insurance benefits. Trans* people of color are especially impacted by this lack of access to insurance. Even if trans* people have health insurance coverage, policies frequently contain trans-specific exclusions that deny them coverage regularly provided to cisgender people, meaning that transition-related health care, including hormone therapy and surgeries, are not covered.

That lack of employment pushes trans* people to do sex work and/or sell drugs so they can make some money to finance their needs, potentially putting their lives in danger.

Laverne Cox, an Inter-sex Trans* Queer advocate

and an American actress better known for her role on the Netflix television series "Orange Is The New Black," once said, "It is revolutionary for any trans person to choose to be seen and visible in a world that tells us we should not exist."

A trans* person cannot be seen in public without being stared at or even being insulted. I personally witness this every time I am out with my friends at night, and even during the daytime.

Another place where trans* people feel excluded is in public restrooms. "Transparent"—an American comedy-drama television series directed by Jill Soloway from Amazon Studios is about a family that find out their father is a trans* woman—depicts the harassment and transphobia a trans* person can undergo when choosing to use the restroom. In 2015, eight trans* women of color were brutal-

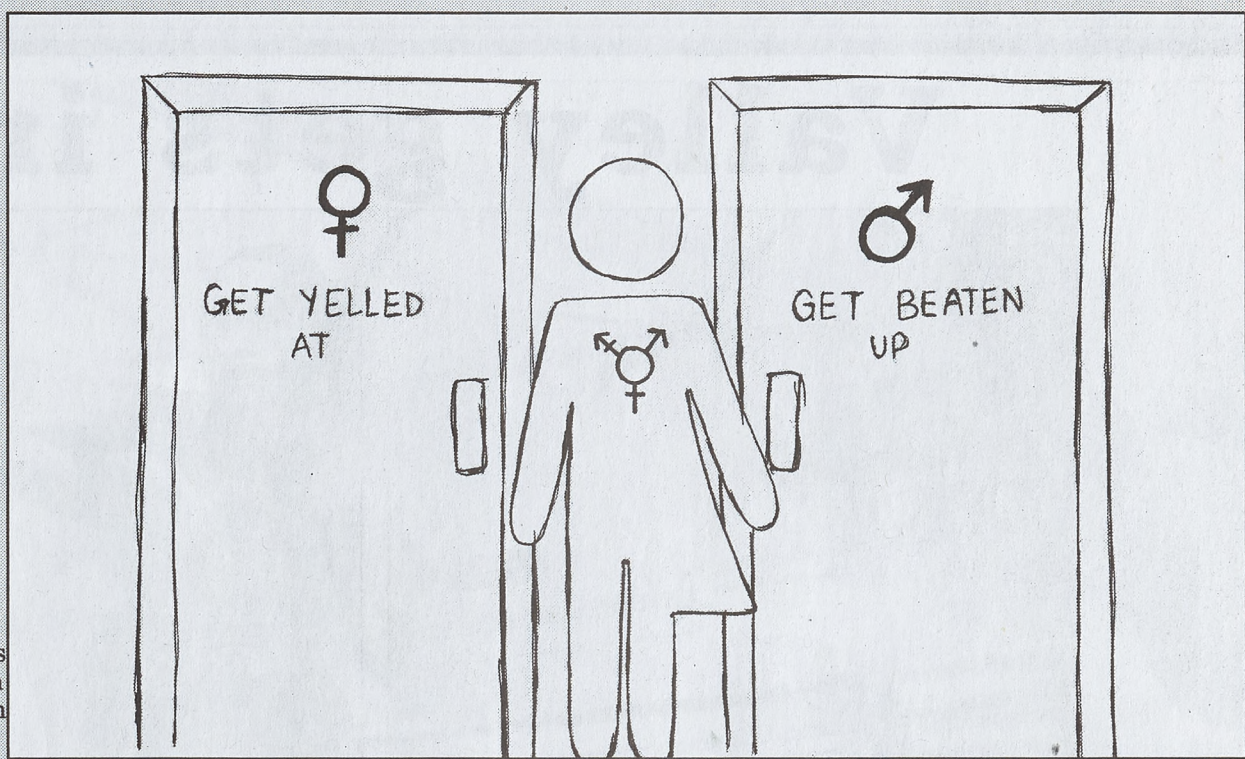


ILLUSTRATION BY SARA ALMALLA/VALLEY STAR

NOWHERE TO GO - Transgender youth have a long way to go before society learns to accept their needs.

ly killed within the first 60 days with no media outrage or outcry. One of these cases was of Michelle Vash Payne, a trans* woman of color who was found stabbed to death in a burned Van Nuys apartment Jan. 31. There were no Diane Sawyer interviews to raise consciousness about the struggles in their lives. I believe Bruce Jenner's

exposure could be better served not as a be-all and end-all of the trans* experience, but as a window into towards issues that affect marginalized communities: poor, disabled, incarcerated, undocumented trans* people of color.

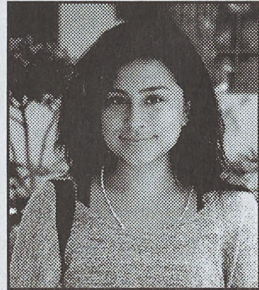
Note: Trans is an umbrella term used to include all people who identify as having*

a gender identity different from their assigned gender (also, gender-variant). This can include transsexual, transgender, cross-dressers, etc., depending on self-understandings of gender identity.

For additional content online, please visit:
www.thevalleystar.com

Campus View

PHOTOS BY ARIANE AZAR,
VALLEY STAR



"No, at the end of the day we're all humans. Whether we change our gender or not, God loves us all and accepts us all."

CYNTHIA AROSTEGUI
REGISTERED NURSE



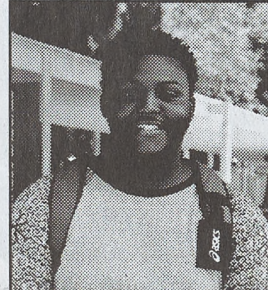
"No, because people have rights. The person has a right to be whatever they want to be."

DOMINIC PADILLA
ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE



"No, they don't make me feel uncomfortable. I believe they are normal human beings and they are happy for who they are."

JOCELYN LOPEZ
HUMAN RESOURCES



"Yes they do. It's not normal."

SAM SMITH
UNDECIDED

Does being around transgender people make you uncomfortable?



JENN MUSSARI / BLOGSPOT

TAKE A LOOK - Cultural appropriation at its finest, headdresses are traditionally worn by Native Americans. They are not costumes.

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Cultural hijacking

■ **Blurred lines between cultural exchange and cultural appropriation.**

By **SARA ALMALLA**
STAFF WRITER

Festival season is upon us and what does that mean? You guessed it! Concert goes in offensive headdresses and binds everywhere.

America is a melting pot, no doubt, and the diversity of cultures and traditions is something to be proud of. It's almost impossible to not have different cultures rub off on each other when they're all within such proximity. But there is a line between appreciating different cultures and appropriating them, and the blur between the two causes a lot more harm than some may expect.

"Cultural appropriation" is when a privileged or dominant group adopts customs typically carried out by minorities or disadvantaged groups, that are deemed stereotypical or are ridiculed when practiced by the latter, but fashionable or cool when practiced by the former.

Let's break it down. Dreadlocks and cornrows, a hairstyle originated by Africans as a means of maintaining their naturally coarse hair, have long been associated with negativity, unprofessionalism and a lack of cleanliness.

However, in the early 2000s, when hip hop (which originates from black culture, with roots in blues, which in turn came largely from songs sung by black slaves) was becoming mainstream, white artists such as Fergie, Katie Perry, Kim Kardashian, and

Riff Raff began to adopt the music and hairstyles created by black people.

Many argue that minorities should be flattered by the sudden interest and imitation of their culture. However, this not about flattery.

It is about the privileged people who are revered and admired for their hairstyles and music, while black people, the creators of both those things, continue to suffer from the harmful stereotypes that surround these customs.

In fact, many schools still have a ban on dreadlocks, afros, and cornrows. Deborah Brown Community School in Tulsa, Oklahoma actually sent a 7-year-old home for sporting dreads, as well as South Plaquemines High School in Louisiana that suspended a Rastafarian teen for wearing his hair in dreads due to the school dress-code policy. There are several other schools as well as universities that have a ban on these traditionally black hairstyles.

Zendaya, a young black Disney star, was a prime example of these harmful stereotypes when she wore her hair in dreadlocks to the Oscars this year. Giuliana Rancic from the show Fashion Police made the offhand comment that she thought Zendaya "smells like patchouli oil. Or, weed."

Meanwhile, Kylie Jenner was being praised for wearing her hair in "edgy" dreads for a "rebel-themed" photoshoot by popular media outlets such as Cosmo.

Although Azealia Banks was talking about Iggy Azalea winning a Grammy when she voiced her opinions in a Hot 97 radio station interview, she could have been talking about all the black

appropriation in the media when she stated "all it says to white kids is: [...] you can do whatever you put your mind to. And it says to black kids: you don't have sh*t. You don't own sh*t, not even the sh*t you created for yourself"

Unfortunately, the appropriation does not end at dreadlocks.

In the late '80s, a hate group called "Dotbusters" attacked, threatened and killed South Asians and Indians in New Jersey. Indians continue to face discrimination and racism even today.

However, recently, wearing a bindi has become a trend among the non-Indians. The same people who ridicule Indian girls for the way they smell, dress and look, glue crystals and dots (purchased from Forever 21) to their foreheads and refer to themselves as "hipsters" and "gypsies".

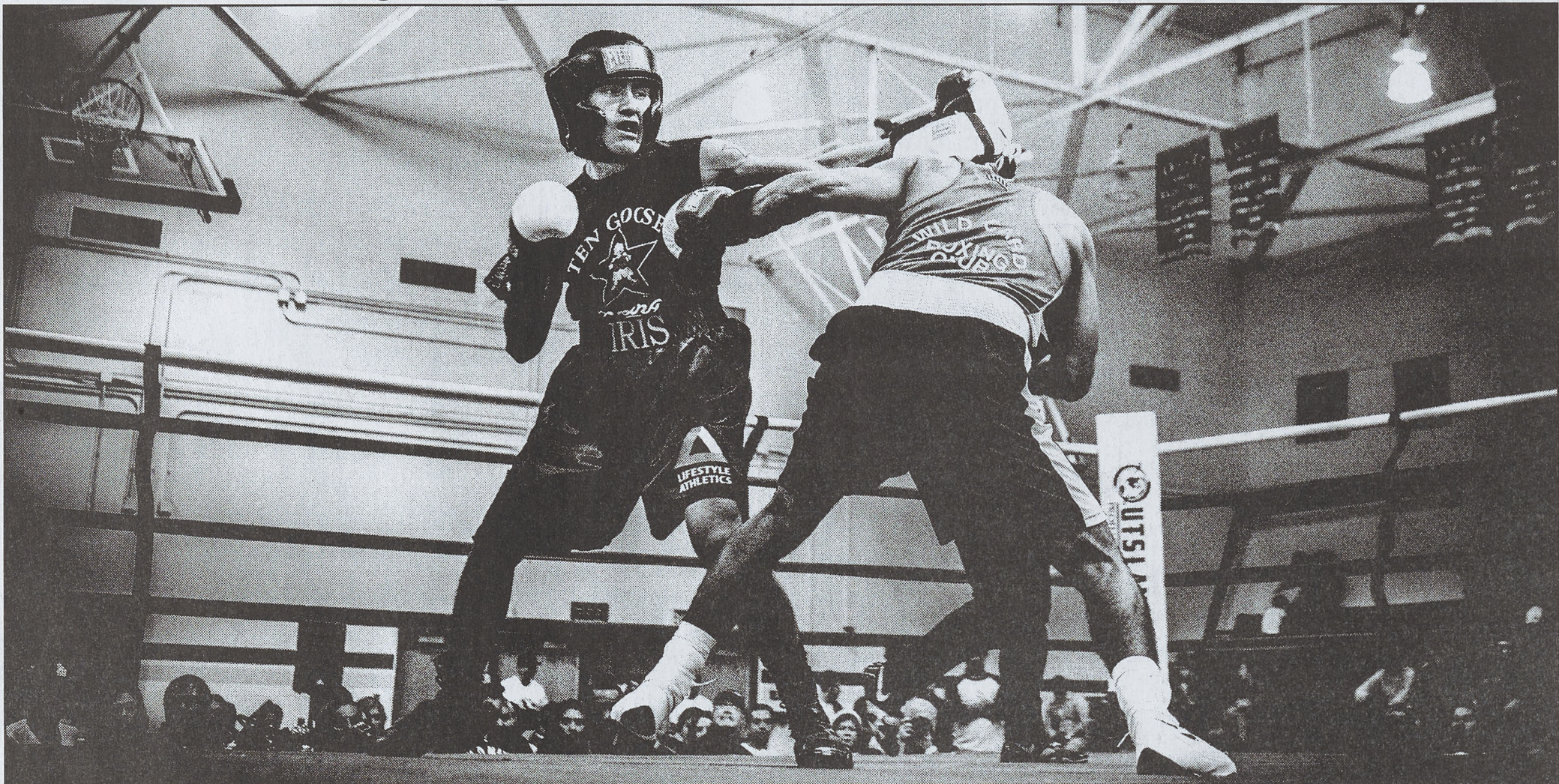
As Asishani Jasmin put it in her article "You can wear it, but I can't": "Funnily, I can't wear it. I can't wear the sari, the lengha or the bindi, even now, without someone looking me up and down with disgust. 'Get out of our country'; 'dothead'; 'Paki'; 'lousy immigrants, running our healthcare systems to lock us out'; it's all the same to me. [...] I have somehow been locked out of a culture that I want to be proud of."

The privileged deem what is acceptable and not acceptable in society. They also get to choose which parts of other cultures to associate themselves with. Minorities do not have the same privileges.

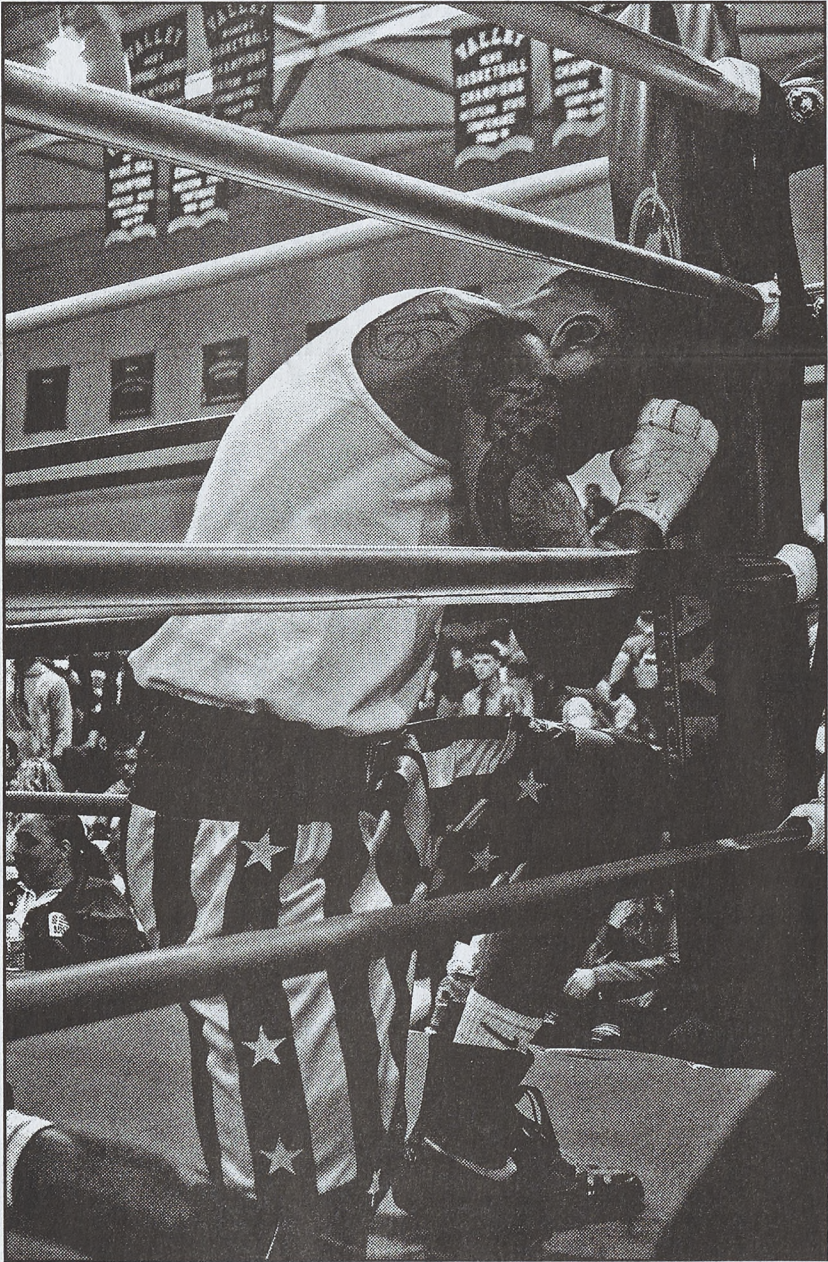
It is due time we learn to how to appreciate these cultures rather than appropriate.

GALLERY

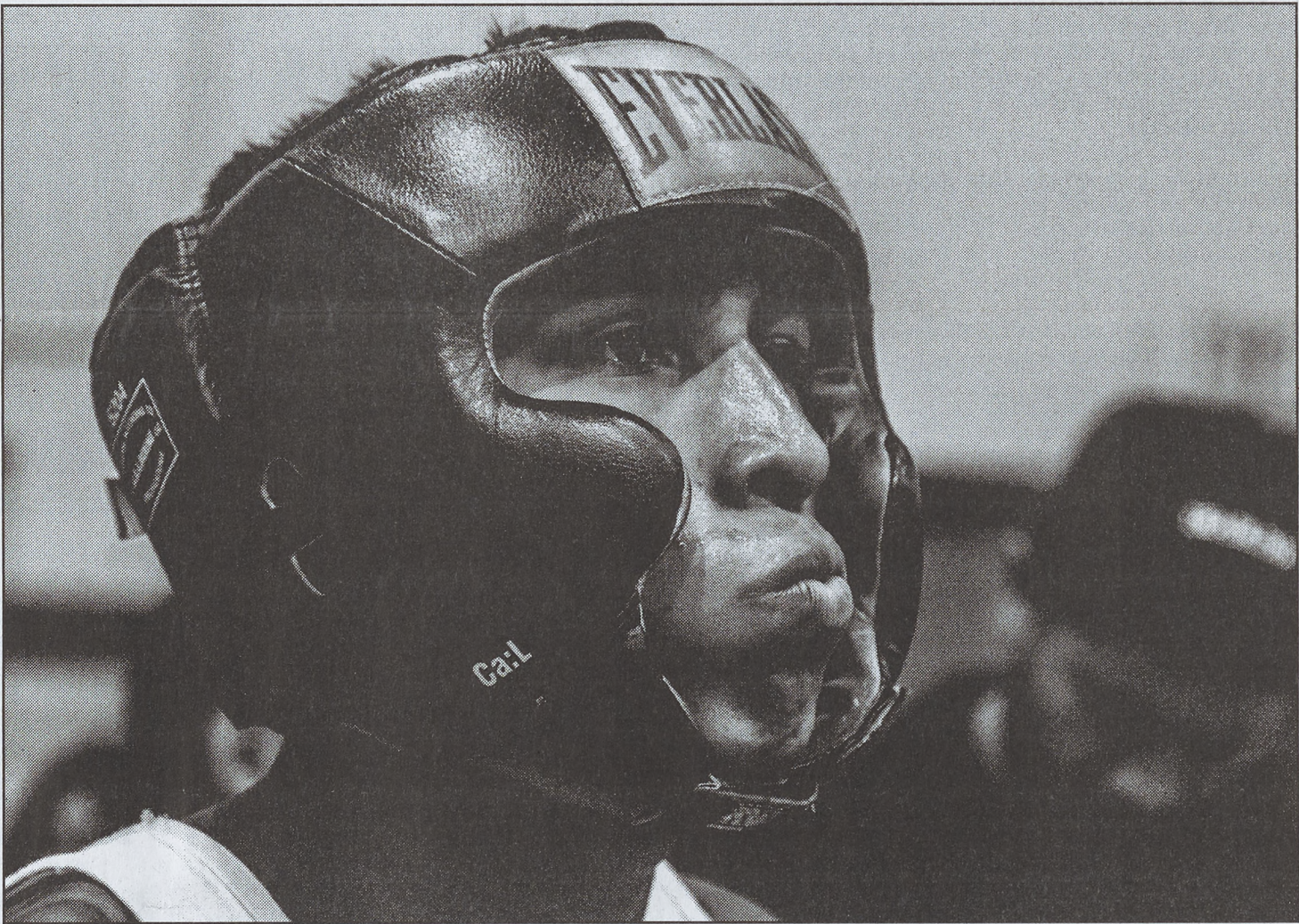
Valley gets into the ring



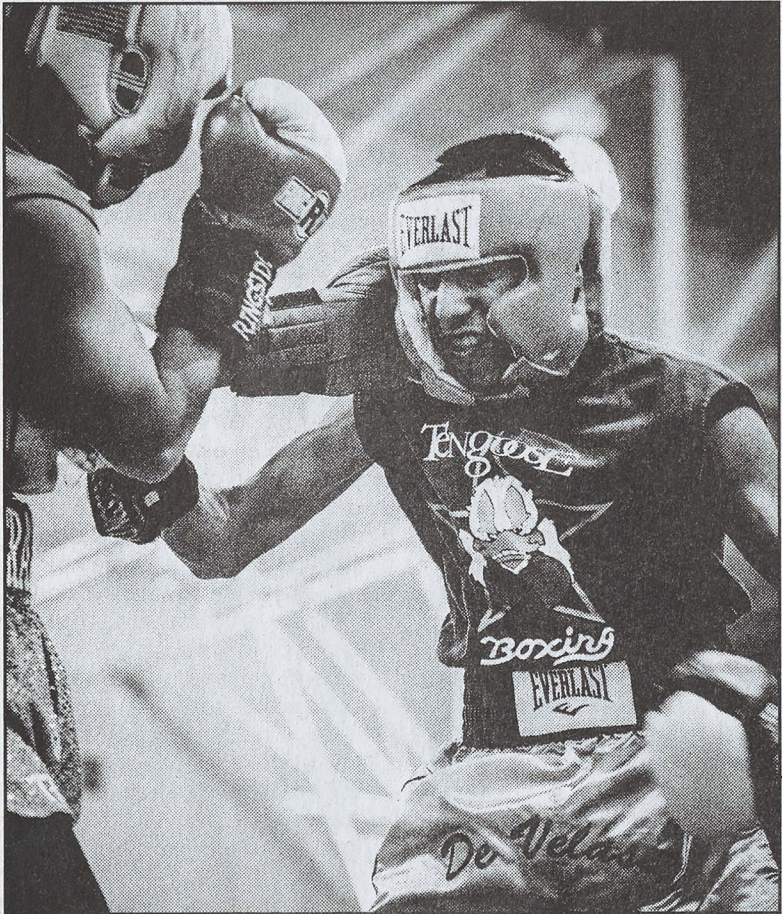
SLIP THE JAB Josh Torres (left) versus Richard Carranza (right) at Valley College.



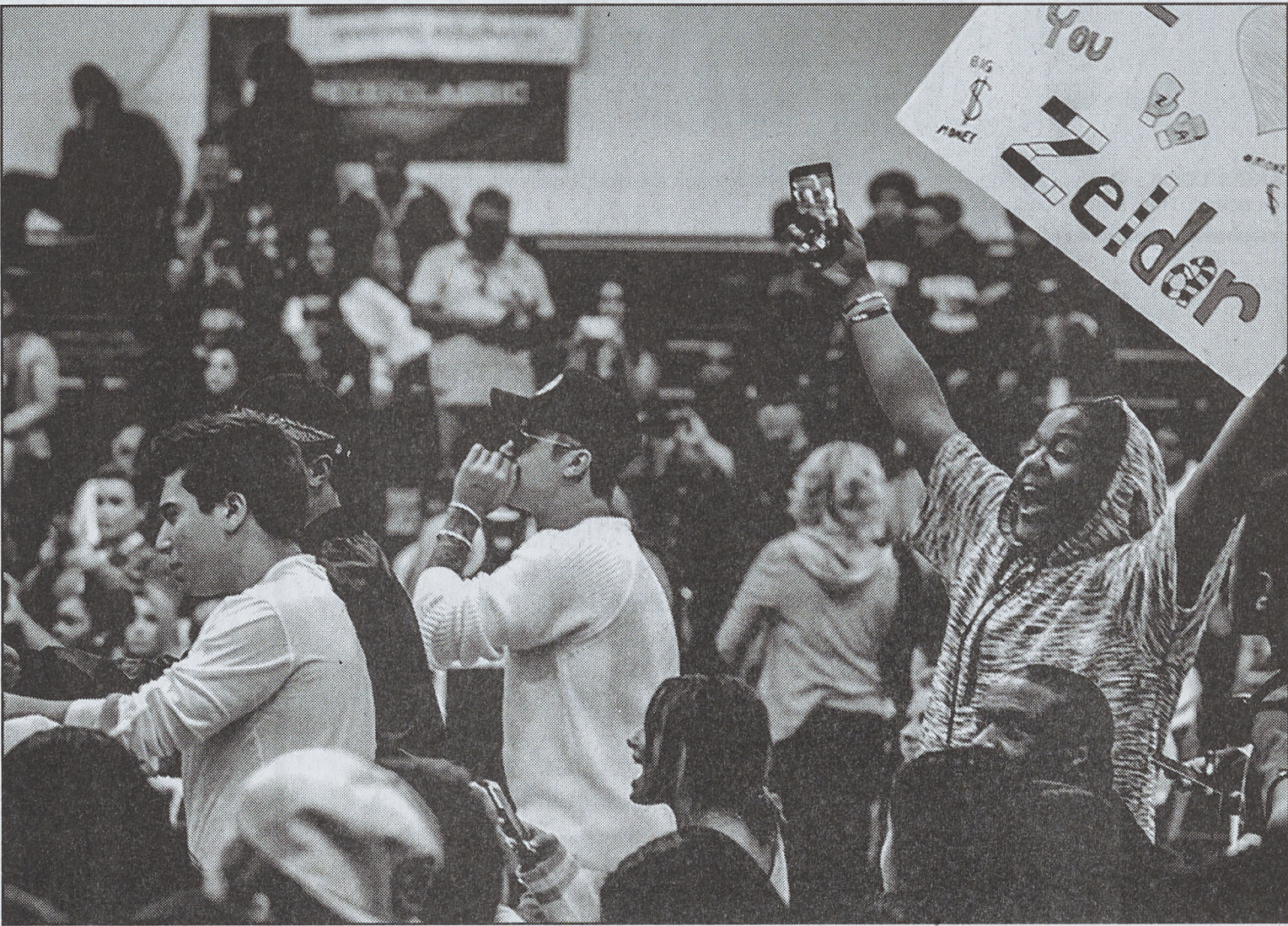
BEFORE THE VIOLENCE Emilio Rodriguez collecting himself in his blue corner before the fight.



I MUST BREAK YOU Emilo Rodriguez just before the match against CSUN student McArio Del Castillo.



FEELING PUNCHY Steve De Velasco (right) takes a shot from Timmy Ortiz during the first match.

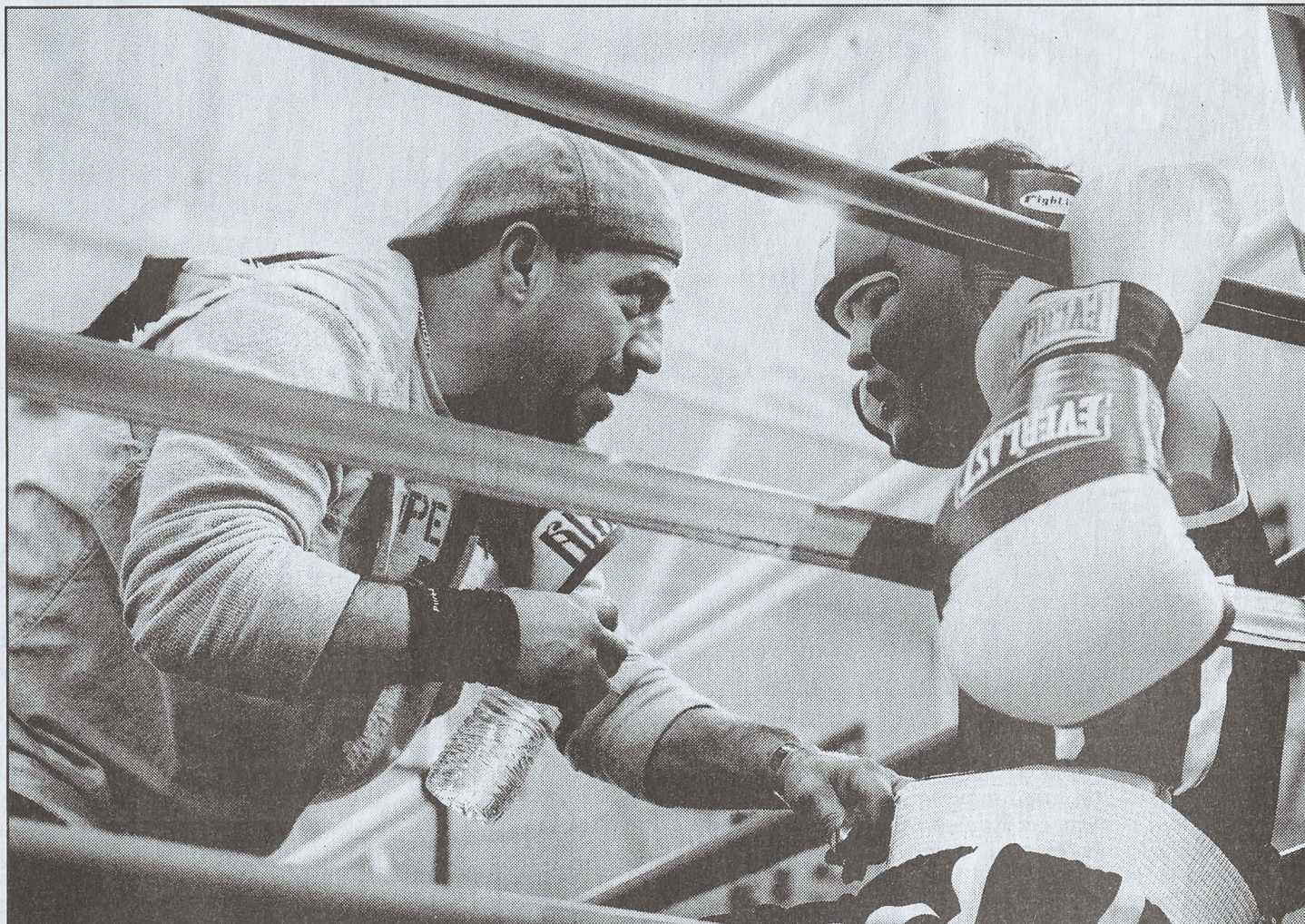


HOLD TIGHT Justin Bieber (left) and Kyle Massey (right) cheered for their friend, Xavier Smith, aka "Lil Za."

GALLERY



TAKE THAT - AND THAT Emilio Rodriguez (right) versus late replacement McArio Del Castillo (left) in the main event.



STICK AND MOVE, KID Trainer gives Arthur Aziev (right) a motivational pep talk in between rounds.

Who needs Pacquiao/Mayweather? Valley College brought the pain and entertainment with 12 high-octane bouts in the South Gym April 24. Tickets (\$25) were a fraction of even the Pay-Per-View price of the Vegas show, and attendees didn't have to listen to Jamie Foxx sing the National Anthem.

The K.O. Boxing event featured Monarch third-string quarterback and promising Golden Gloves super-middleweight Emilio Rodriguez in the main event. Hundreds saw Rodriguez destroy McArio Del Castillo with a savage barrage of power punches. Rodriguez won by TKO in the first round.

It wasn't all good news for Monarch pugilists, as Breenah Goldberg went down by third round TKO to Gerrica Trias.

Celebrities in attendance included Justin Bieber, on hand to watch

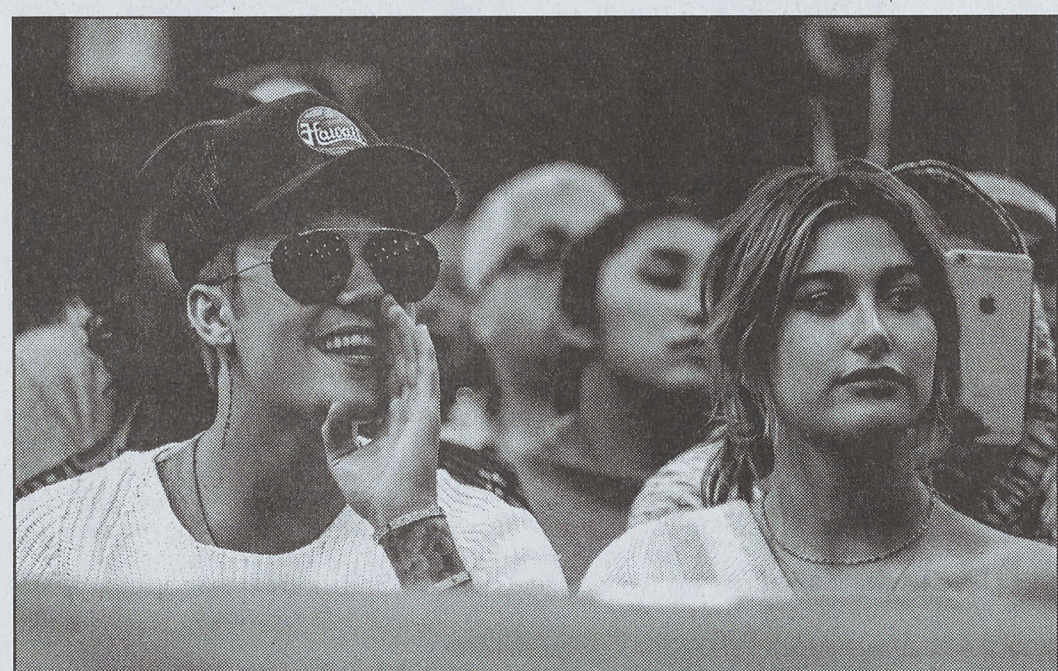
PHOTOS BY
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ALVIN CUADRA
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GUILLERMO MARTINEZ



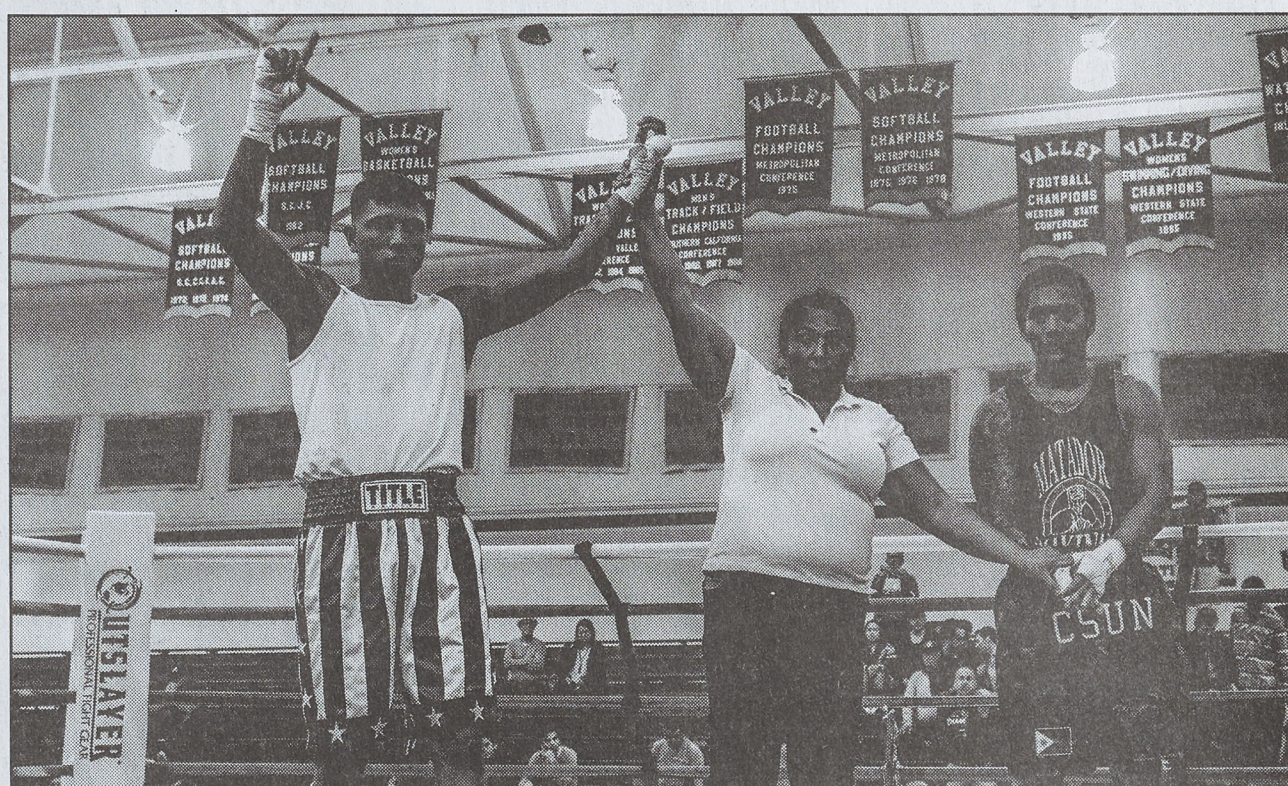
HATS OFF TO VALLEY Monarch Breenah Goldberg (left) versus Gerrica Trias (right) at Valley College. Goldberg would lose by TKO in the third.



DEJA VU Arthur Aziev (left) and James Vu (right) mix it up in one of the undercard bouts.



BEAUTY AND THE BEATDOWN Justin Bieber (left) and Haley Baldwin (right) made an appearance at the boxing match to support his friend, Xavier Smith.



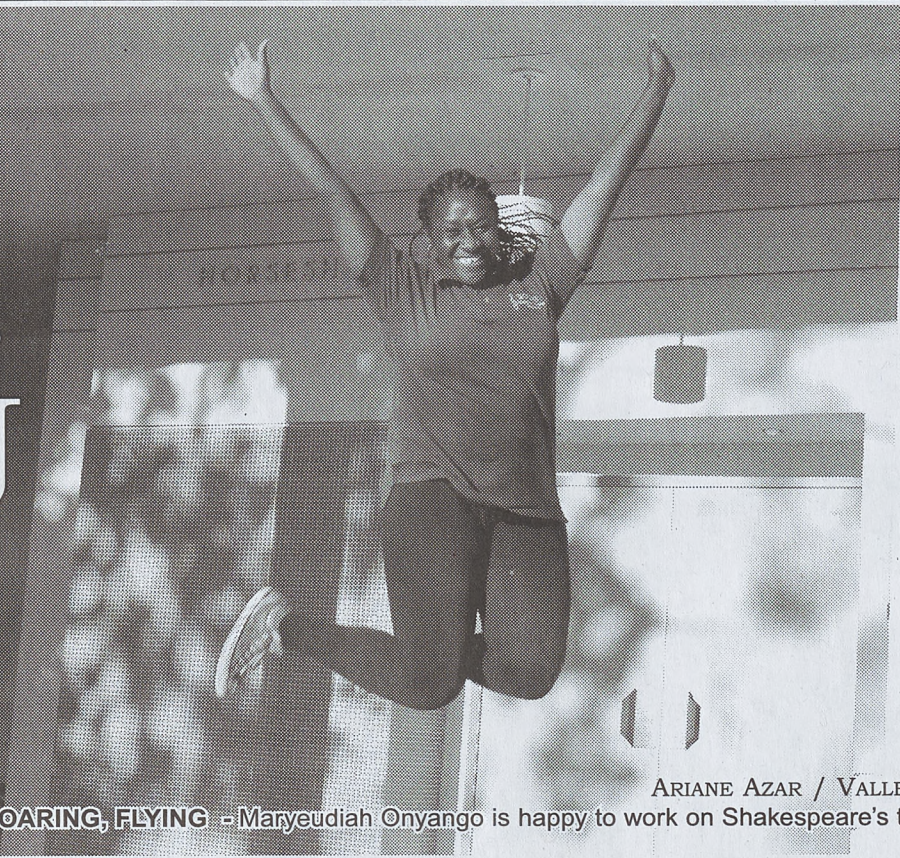
YOU MESS WITH THE BULL ... Valley Monarch Emilio Rodriguez (left) declared winner after first round TKO versus CSUN Matador McArio Del Castillo.

VALLEY LIFE

THEATER ARTS

From E.M.E. to R&J

■ Onyango will show off her vocal range in Valley's upcoming "Romeo and Juliet."



WE'RE SOARING, FLYING - Maryeudiah Onyango is happy to work on Shakespeare's tragedy.

By Yessenia Burgara
STAFF WRITER

Maryeudiah Onyango may be all in for musical theater as Romeo and Juliet were all in it for each other. "Music theater is what I love to do," said Onyango. "I don't have a backup plan; this is what makes me happy."

Onyango is an actress whose screen credits include the short films "Curse of the Devil's Mountain," "Mind Tricks" and the Internet feature "Dysfunctionally Organized." She's a musical theater major and will serve as the musical director, chorus and narrator in Valley's upcoming production of William Shakespeare's tragic love story "Romeo and Juliet."

"The show is coming out great," Onyango said. "It's coming out amazing. I feel people are really going to understand it, especially with the music chosen. Our director, Christopher Coddington, really picked the songs to make sense with the storyline." "Because of Mary's talent we expanded a role in the play. She's a remark-

able vocalist," said Coddington. Onyango started acting at 8. It was in her blood, as her father, Benjamin A. Onyango, has about 30 screen credits and appeared with her in the Bruce Willis feature, "Tears of the Sun." "Sadly my part did not get picked into the system," she said. This means that her scenes ended up on the cutting-room floor. "But luckily Bruce Willis was able to make his own version of the movie and I was able to get my own copy of me in his version." It was in the ninth grade, that Maryeudiah said she "finally realized that I really liked singing, acting, and dancing, all three of it, so I got into a show, 'Bye Bye Birdie,' my first musical." Soon after, she started the girl group E.M.E. Angels with her youngest sister and a godsister. They released an album in 2006, "Not Going Home." The group lasted six years after losing and changing members. After E.M.E. and after graduating from Birmingham Community Charter High School, Onyango began taking classes at Valley. She was in her first show, "Avenue Q," in the Spring of 2013. "After hearing everyone enjoying [the show], and really enjoying what I'd been doing and the talent I'd been given, I was like wow, I think this is what I'm supposed to be doing."

Film Adaptations



PARAMOUNT PICTURES
Stars Olivia Hussey and Leonard Whiting in the classic 1968 British-Italian film.



BUENA VISTA HOME ENTERTAINMENT
"Gnomeo and Juliet" takes place in neighboring gardens.



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MAY 21-28 - Student Art Show in the art gallery, free.

For "Age Of Ultron" and other movie reviews,

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CAMPUS STYLE

Casually trendy

■ Budget queen Rekik Neway uses social media not only to express herself, but also to make money.

Rekik Neway
Likes:

Music:
Travis Scott

TV Shows:
Revenge, The Following

Style Idol:
Rihanna



DOPEST ETHIOPIAN - Rekik Neway rocking the ripped jean trend with white accents for a casual look on a cloudy day at Valley

By MONESSA CHAHAYED
ONLINE EDITOR

She's "Tumblr famous" online, known as "Dopest Ethiopian," but IRL she is Valley student Rekik Neway.

Her natural beauty requires little makeup, but it's enhanced by a gold necklace from Ethiopia she wears every day. Other go-to accessories include gold hoop earrings and a nose ring or stud. Her wardrobe consists of a lot of black and neutral colors; when asked why she decided on the white hat and shoes to set off her all-black outfit, the charismatic multimedia major laughs:

"You know, I just knew I was going to be interviewed by someone today."

The Los Angeles native says her studies emphasize film and TV. She has been working her dream job as a social media associate for

Tiny Horse Productions since she graduated high school, thanks to a family friend. But the fashion-forward 18 year old has already found her career niche: social media.

"I currently have over 85,000 followers on there. I do get the [Tumblr famous] thing a lot but, honestly don't see it like 'fame' ... It's just another social platform that is fun and entertaining," she explains.

She says her blog (dopest-ethiopian.tumblr.com) "embodies" her. Her post subjects range from fashion and beauty to social justice, with pictures and videos. Her following has grown enough so that she has been asked to promote brands via Instagram.

"Clothing companies contact me and send me clothing to wear and model on social media, mainly Instagram," she says. "I suppose my face is my own brand on social

platforms."

Neway describes her own style as a mix of tomboy and girly. Channeling her inner Rihanna, she aims to be comfortable and chic at the same time. Today, she says, she is more of a tomboy in her shredded black jeans and black cardigan from Fashion Nova paired with white accents: converse, and a baseball cap atop her ombre locks.

An effortless everyday makeup look consists of false eyelashes and a bare face, but sometimes she will opt for a bold lip and eye shadow. Due to skin problems in the past, Neway prefers less makeup because of how hard she has worked to keep her skin clear.

"My style is really just whatever I am feeling for the day," she said. "I get overwhelmed in stores like Forever 21 and H&M, I don't want to be wearing what everyone else is wearing."

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SPORTS

7

FIGHT NIGHT

Little venue, big punches

■ Hundreds witnessed Valley's first-ever boxing extravaganza in the South Gym April 24.

By YESENA BURGARA
STAFF WRITER

Nobody will mistake the South Gym for the MGM Grand, but Valley recently hosted its own fight night and there might have been more action on campus than in Mayweather-Pacquiao.

The K.O. Boxing event sported 12 bouts, including one female fight and a main event featuring Valley's own Emilio Rodriguez, 22, a promising Golden Gloves fighter.

Tickets were \$20, not \$10,000, and Valley fight fans got to see celebrities, including Justin Bieber. Beiber was here to watch friend Xavier Smith fight. However, the headliner, whose fight was witnessed by 1,200 who packed into the South Gym

on April 24, was Rodriguez.

The super middleweight faced McArio Del Castillo, but the match did not last long. Rodriguez (9-1) came in demonstrating his ability as a fighter, complementing defensive skills with power punches. In the first round, Rodriguez's right hook to Castillo's face gave the hometown hero a TKO and his ninth win in 10 professional matches.

"I was so focused throughout the week," said Rodriguez.

Celebrity sightings included Obba Babatundé (host), Beverly "Mama" Sherman (mother of star NFL cornerback Richard Sherman), actors Charles Malik Whitfield and Kyle Massey, and Kenisha Norton (daughter of late boxing great Ken

Norton Sr.). Middleweight Fernando Guerrero was also in attendance to promote the all-purpose, charitable Fernando Guerrero Foundation.

As spectators arrived, they were given the opportunity to choose items from a large table with shoes, athletic shirts, children books and toys.

K.O. Boxing and promoter Marvin Columbus gave out awards to Whitfield, boxing trainer Ricky Funez and Naja Crawford, Valley's Commissioner of Athletics, for bringing the event to Valley.

"The show was amazing," Columbus said. "So many people came out in support."

Columbus, who toured as a dancer with Midnight

Starr and the SOS and Gap Bands and others in the '80s, said he plans another event in June at Valley that will include boxing and a concert, with some of the proceeds going to "Hands Off Our Children," which according to its Facebook page, "uses a multi-media platform to raise awareness, provide info and resources to safeguard and prevent against all forms of child abuse."

Columbus kicked off the evening by welcoming everyone and introducing host Obba Babatundé. Lexy St. George performed the National Anthem.

Some of the undercard fights saw Timmy Ortiz defeat Steve DeVelasco and Brandon Mendoza, Josh Torres, Jonatan Walley and

Danny Anthony all picking up wins.

In the women's event, Gerrica Trais dominated the entire match against Valley's Breenah Goldberg; Trais came into the ring in better shape and demonstrated more power than her opponent.

Recording artist Tammy Task hyped up the crowd during intermission to prepare them for the remaining six fights. James Vu, Damon Lopez, and Xavier Smith were among the late winners.

In the main event, Valley's Rodriguez came storming out at the bell and tore into his opponent with thundering rights and lefts. Del Castillo, a late replacement, probably wished he'd stayed home after facing the relentless barrage.

At least his night was a short one; after two brief stoppages by the referee, an unbridled sequence of six haymakers ended the fight by TKO.

For Rodriguez, the victory relieved the weight of an unsatisfactory football season as Valley's third-string quarterback, along with a tough first loss by decision in his last Golden Glove tournament.

"[I was] so determined," said Rodriguez. "With all the hype that was building in the school and with my momentum of being an upcoming amateur boxer in the community I wanted to prove that I was more than just an average boxer. I'm proud that I was a part of the first boxing show every held at Valley as well as being a winner."

CELEBRITY FOOTBALL

Celebrities assemble at Valley for a good cause

■ One Child At A Time hosts a celebrity charity flag football game at Valley College.

By KEVIN BUCKLES JR.
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Who knew b-boy skills and growing up featured on the Disney Channel would translate to the football field? How about a 34-year-old actor with better ball-tracking skills than every Oakland Raiders football player? Ok, maybe that isn't so hard to believe. What about a guy nicknamed 'Smooove' who is, lets just say, anything but smooth on the field?

Cameron Boyce, Arlen Escarpeta and J.B. Smoove were just a few Hollywood names that participated in One Child At A Time's (OCAAT) Celebrity Flag Football Game recently at Monarch Stadium, benefiting Los Angeles County's foster children and families.

Despite having to endure scattered drizzles throughout the day, the fifty shades of grey colors in the sky were not an accurate reflection of the mood generated by over 100 celebrities in attendance. Hundreds of pearly whites beamed throughout

the crowd of nearly a thousand people, mostly foster families, as the event featured musical performances, free-giveaways, meet-and-greets and dance-offs.

The event began with each celebrity on Team Red and Team Blue participating in the game introducing themselves to the large crowd of fans one by one. Some of the most recognizable faces and names in attendance were: Disney Channel star Cameron Boyce, actor and comedian J.B. Smoove, Arlen Escarpeta, Edward James Olmos, and former Nickelodeon child-star Kel Mitchell, who hosted the event.

"It's fun to come out here and do anything to support kids, and showing them that they can follow their dreams no matter their circumstances," said Mitchell. "So when I was asked to host, I was all about it; I come from a kids network so it's definitely a passion for me."

The game itself looked exactly how one would expect a celebrity charity matchup to look -- a competi-



ALVIN CUADRA/VALLEY STAR

KEEPING THE EYE ON THE PRIZE- Actor Khleo Thomas (center) is deep in the hole against a large number of defenders

itive blooper reel. Between dropped passes, fumbles, illegal substitutions, and jokes-galore, the game was entertaining at the very least. Team Blue, fea-

turing Boyce and Escarpeta, dominated Team Red led by Smoove, Khleo Thomas (Holes), and Brian Hooks (3 Strikes). The game was out of hand by the 2nd quar-

ter when Team Blue took a 28-0 lead into halftime led by Cameron Sutter's three touchdowns. The second half was more of the same as Boyce and Escarpeta used their impressive and deceptive elusiveness to score two long touchdowns late in the 4th quarter; Boyce's touchdown came off of 65-yard catch while Escarpeta's came when he intercepted a pass and returned it 70 yards.

"I was out here getting beat up," joked Boyce. "But I'm glad we were out here having fun for a good cause."

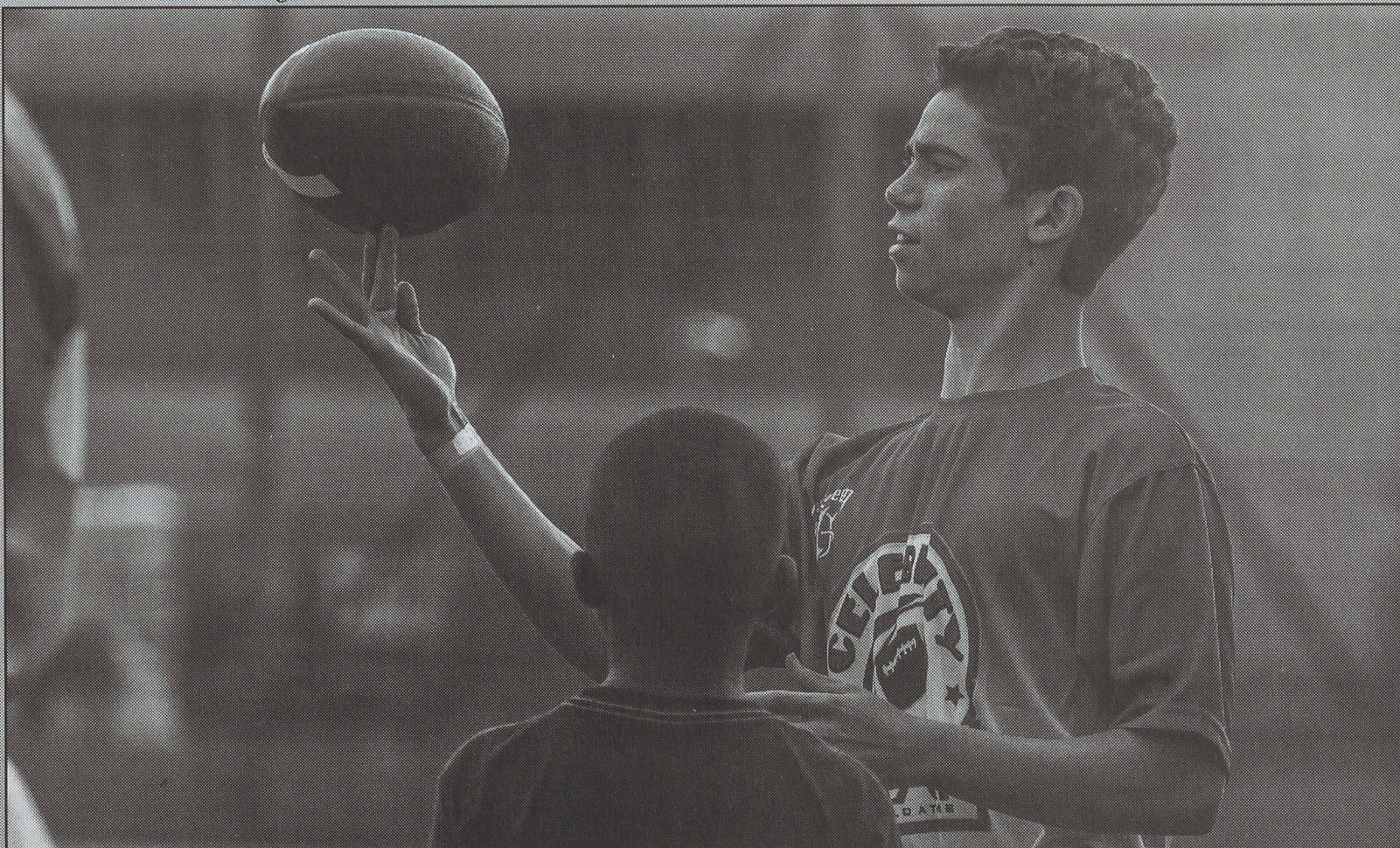
Escarpeta also joked that his main goal was to "not get hurt," but was more than happy to be participating in the celebrity event for OCAAT.

"It's less about the 'celebrity' and more about the giving back," said Escarpeta. "Foster care is something that affects people around the world. A lot of times we're so quick to reach out and help people further away than closer to home so things like this matters more to me because it is closer to home and theres so many kids need that support, and need that balance, so its our responsibility. They're our children, so is a great opportunity to give back."

That is a message that OCAAT co-founder and event coordinator Jackie Solomon sought to put into action in 2007 -- when the organization was created. OCAAT has held celebrity basketball, golf, and 'Foster Idol,' since 2008, raising funds to be funneled to families for medical, dental, and other services that government funding cannot provide. OCAAT has also given out roughly 300 different scholarships for foster youth and helped countless families within L.A. County.

"[OCAAT] is something that I thought of and created because I was a DSFS (Department of Children and Family Services) social worker and I wanted to give back," said Jackie Solomon, co-founder and event coordinator of OCAAT since its inception in 2007. "Valley [College] was a great place to host this event because it's a beautiful stadium, and updated, so we are honored for that."

For more information about OCAAT to see there scheduled events, please visit: <http://www.oatevents.com>



ALVIN CUADRA/VALLEY STAR

SHOWING OFF- Disney Channel Star, Cameron Boyce, plays along with a fan on the sideline of the Celebrity Football Game at Valley.

SOFTBALL

Young enough to grow, old enough to know

■ Star center fielder has been holding down the fort for a long time; she's eager to see beyond the wall.

By JORGE BELON
MANAGING EDITOR

Sabrina Gloria Aracely Juarez has a youthful smile and an old soul. The Lady Monarchs' energetic center fielder sees through eyes unusually mature for her 19 years, the influence of her grandmother. Her responsibilities keep her anchored for now, but she hopes to eventually see much more than the world she already knows.

Juarez walks in wearing big headphones (Earth, Wind and Fire), sporting nostril piercings and mighty dimples. The former Francis Polytechnic Senior High student is the oldest of five siblings. She has three brothers and a sister; as the oldest, she attempts to do everything the right way. Every step she takes, she senses casts four extra shadows.

"It is hard being the oldest," said Juarez in her characteristically loud voice. The confident softball star talks as much with her hands as her words. "You are the [test case] for your parents and everyone looks up to you. There is no room for error since everyone is looking at you. I have to keep the peace and keep the order among my siblings."

With her parents separated and a household with multiple generations under

one roof, Juarez was conditioned from an early age to a leadership role. Her grandmother, Gloria León, helped Juarez learn how to deal with so full a plate.

"My grandmother is my hero. She is my everything. I would go to her for everything. I always spent every day with her," Juarez said. "She would teach me to be gentle and to see the beauty in everything, to always see the positive in things no matter what."

But at only 10 years old, the Burbank native had to learn quickly how to put those lessons into practice when her beloved grandmother died. For a while, Juarez felt numb, but her grandmother's philosophy pulled her through.

"I will never forget the day she died. I remember feeling very lost for a while, but her words got me through it."

In middle school, she found a channel that helped her cope - sports. Since her parents picked her up late, she would play every sport possible in after-school programs. Having two brothers who are younger but bigger, made her never afraid to get dirty or play physical. Softball was the sport she chose. She soared by playing all four years in high school and is now the Lady Monarchs center fielder.

Juarez led Valley this season in runs (32), hits (44) and in batting average (.352).

"I just learned that my grandmother use to play soccer when she was younger," she said. "We are the only two people in our family to play sports, it's awesome."

Softball presents a chance to press pause on being the mature older sister and play on being the teammate who leads chants, always making jokes and never stops smiling. It's the outlet to release her wiggles -- a la "Nacho Libre."

"I think it makes me better," she said of being loose on the field. "When I am out there, I am very goofy among my teammates. I am very loud out there I never lose my voice."

She is split on what her major should be, whether she will follow her families footsteps as a nurse or possibly entering politics - she has entertained the notion of the House of Representatives - or something else. One thing is for sure: The 19-year-old freshman wants to ride her sport out of Valley.

"I am planning on getting a scholarship through softball because I do not want to bother my parents for money," she said. "I personally do not care where it takes me I will take it. I just want to go and see the world. I just want to leave home."



DAVID DINWIDDIE/VALLEY STAR

BALLER- The Lady Monarchs center fielder Sabrina Juarez is a freshman at Valley, but she already has her sites set on the future that lies beyond the campus.

Valley College Spring Sports

■ BASKETBALL

Men's: The Monarchs finished the 2014-2015 season seventh out of the eight teams in the Western State Conference South division. Valley's final record was 9-17 and 3-10 conference.

Women's: The Lady Monarchs this season failed to win the WSC South and make the playoffs for the first time since 2012. They finished fourth with a record of 14-15 and with 7-7 conferences.

■ BASEBALL

The men in green just missed the playoffs this season after finishing fourth in the WSC South. The Monarchs spent the entire campaign on the road due to the construction of their new field, but they still ended with a record of 19-16-1 and a 12-9 conference.

■ SOFTBALL

The Lady Monarchs did not make the playoffs this season. Since they finished sixth in the Western State

Conference Blue division with a record of 15-24 and with a conference record of 8-13.

■ SWIM AND DIVE

Both the men's and the women's failed to make the 2015 Swim & Dive State Championship. It was the first time since 2005 that neither the men's nor the women's swim & dive did not make state. The Monarchs fell short in the 2015 Western State Conference Championship competition.

Sports Briefs

■ NBA

The playoffs continue in the National Basketball Association with Derek Rose and the Chicago Bulls facing LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers at the Quicken Loans Arena at 4 p.m. Pacific. The Bulls took the 1-0 over the second seed on Monday with a 99-92 slim road victory. Rose led the team with 25 points, 5 assists and 5 rebounds. James and Kyle Irving will be looking to rebound after a tough night of shooting combining for 19 converted and 45 attempts. The Bulls will be looking to leave the state of Ohio with commanding 2-0 lead as they return home on Friday for game 3. On the Western Conference the Los Angeles Clippers will be facing James Harden and the Houston Rockets at 6:30 p.m. Pacific. The Clippers won game one 117-101, behind Blake Griffin's triple-double performance: 26 points, 13 assists and 14 rebounds. The second seed Rockets will be looking to cut down the 23 turnovers they had in game one. The Clippers will be looking to return back to Los Angeles with a 2-0 lead. On the side note Golden State Warriors point guard Stephen Curry won the MVP Award. Making him the second Warrior to win the MVP since Wilt Chamberlain did in 1960.

■ MLB

The Los Angeles Dodgers will be facing the Milwaukee Brewers at 5:10 p.m. at Miller Park. The Los Angeles Angels will be hosting division rivals the Seattle Mariners at 7:05 p.m. at Angel Stadium.

■ NHL

The National Hockey League playoffs continue with the Tampa Bay Lightning hosting the Montreal Canadiens at 7 p.m. Eastern at the Amalie Arena. The Lightning has taken control of the series by leaving Canada with a 2-0 lead. In the second match of the day, the Washington Capitals will be hosting the New York Rangers at 7:30 p.m. Eastern at the Verizon Center. The Capitals can take a 3-1 lead with a victory over the Rangers in the nations capitol.

■ NFL

The NFL Draft has just passed and the three California teams are now moving forward with their picks. Here is a quick highlight of their first round picks. The Oakland Raiders: 4th Amari Cooper WR, from the University of Alabama. The San Francisco 49ers: 17th Arik Armstead DT, from the University of Oregon. San Diego Chargers: 15th Melvin Gordon RB, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

■ MLS

In the Western Conference the bitter rivals the Los Angeles Galaxy and Real Salt Lake (RSL) will be facing at 9:30 p.m. at Sandy, Utah in Rio Tinto Stadium. The Galaxy and Real are both coming out of 1-1 draws in their last matches. Three points separate the two teams with the Galaxy having 13 points. A victory for RSL could potentially catapult them from ninth to fourth and back in the play-off race.

■ Global Soccer

In North America the Canadian Championship gets started with two games. For the four Canadian soccer teams in the tournament the winner will qualify for the 2016-2017 CONCACAF Champions League. The first game will be the Major League Soccer (MLS) matchup, the Montreal Impact will be hosting U.S. international Michael Bradley and Toronto FC at the Stade Saputo. The second game will be the North American Soccer League (NASL) side FC Edmonton will be hosting MLS side, the Vancouver Whitecaps FC at Clarke Field.

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